

Dear members of the committee,

I teach Latin and Greek at a state university but am testifying on behalf of myself. I want to point out three issues in SB 1 that I hope can be remedied:

-- This bill requires universities to eliminate programs that graduate fewer than five students annually. The wording here is both imprecise and inflexible. What is a "program" or a "degree?" Is that a major or minor? Is a "program" a department, a center, a college, etc? This requirement puts small but crucial programs at risk. For instance, at my university, courses on Homer, Plato, Cicero, St Augustine, or the Hebrew Bible would no longer be taught by qualified experts if Latin, Greek, or Hebrew were no longer offered. These courses cannot be run effectively by people without language training, even in translation.

-- This bill requires annual evaluations of all faculty regardless of tenure status. At my university this already happens every year at the department level. Creating a new bureaucratic process for annual evaluations will force the university to hire more non-instructional staff and increase administration costs. Our bureaucracy is already top-heavy and overstaffed. My experience is that the annual review process already distracts chairs from day-to-day management for a large chunk of the year.

--My university already has issues with classroom intruders. I am worried that posting current syllabi online will invite more harassment from unwell members of the public. We are an open campus and outsiders can and do enter academic buildings. I have had my classroom invaded before and it was terrifying.

My witness form is attached to this email.

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